DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 238 998 UD 023 293

TITLE	Participation in Postsecondary Education in New York State by Racial and Ethnic Categories.
INSTITUTION	New York State Education Dept., Albany. Bureau of Postsecondary Research, Information Systems and Institutional Aid.
PUB DATE	Sep 83
NOTE	8p.; Table 1 may be marginally legible; light print.
PUB TYPE	Statistical Data (110) -- Reports - General (140)
EDRS PRICE	MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	American Indians; Asian Americans; Blacks; *Degrees (Academic); *Enrollment Trends; *Ethnic Groups; Hispanic Americans; *Intellectual Disciplines; *Majors (Students); Population Trends; *Postsecondary Education; Whites
IDENTIFIERS	*New York

ABSTRACT

Using data taken from responses to Federal questionnaires administered in New York State by the State Education Department, the postsecondary participation of five racial/ethnic groups in New York State is presented in summary form. The groups are Asian Americans, Blacks, Hispanic Americans, Whites, and American Indians. The categories of information covered are statewide enrollment (1972-82), state population characteristics, degrees conferred (1976-80), participation and degree completion (1972-80), attendance choices (1978-80), and program interests (1980). (CMG)

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PARTICIPATION IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN NEW YORK STATE BY RACIAL AND ETHNIC CATEGORIES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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September 1983

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This report was prepared for d scussion by the Board of Regents at its September 1983 meeting. It summarizes the findings of a larger study which is still in progress.

Bureau of Postseconary Research, Information Sytems and Institutional Aid
State Education Department
Albany, NY 12230

UD023293

PARTICIPATION IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
BY RACIAL AND ETHNIC CATEGORIES

Statewide Enrollment (TABLE 1)

*Minority students comprised 19.8% of all degree credit enrollments in 1980 compared to 12.5% in 1972. In 1980, there were 757,270 Whites, 105,740 Blacks, 54,670 Hispanics, 21,610 Asians, and 4,530 American Natives enrolled in degree credit courses.

*Between 1972 and 1980 Black and White enrollment increased by about one-third (39.0% and 36.4%, respectively), while the enrollment of Indians, Hispanics and Asians nearly doubled (81.0%, 98.2% and 93.3%, respectively). Much of this growth is attributable to population increases in college age categories.

*Between 1974 and 1980 the ratio of Blacks entering college in the State to 12th graders in the previous year declined slightly from 65% to 63%. The comparable ratio for Hispanics increased from 52% to 68%, while the ratio for Whites increased from 59% to 64%. Comparable figures are not available for Asians and American Natives.

Population Characteristics

*In 1980, approximately 30% of the New York State population between ages 18 and 59 were minorities.

*Between 1970 and 1980, minorities in the 20 to 24 age group increased by over 81%. More than half of this increase appears to be due to migration into the State of Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians, primarily from overseas.

*In 1981, minorities comprised 20% of the twelfth graders and over 30% of the 18-year olds in the State. Of the over two million minorities in the State ages 14-49, over 70% were residents of New York City. Approximately 60% of the minorities were Black, over 30% were Hispanics, near 8% were Asian, and less than 1.5% were American Natives.

Degrees Conferred

*Bachelor's degrees were earned by approximately 58% of the Blacks, Hispanics and American Natives receiving undergraduate degrees in 1980. Corresponding percentages for Whites and Asians were 64% and 78%. These percentages were up only slightly from 1976 levels.

*Although total college enrollments grew between 1976 and 1980, degrees conferred fell by 4% during the same period. Most of the drop in degrees occurred at the Masters level, reflecting a decline in graduate enrollment. The picture was quite different at the undergraduate level. Despite an increase in enrollment at the undergraduate level, degrees conferred declined, primarily because of greater than average attrition.

*The degree trends for Whites followed the overall trends. However, the degree trends for Blacks and Hispanics generally rose modest amounts for all levels of degrees. These trends are consistent with overall population trends. Trend data is not yet available for American Natives and Asians.

TABLE 1

NEW YORK STATE
ENROLLMENT BY RACIAL/ETHNIC CATEGORY AND LEVEL OF STUDY
Fall 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982

Level of Study	Non-Resident Alien	Black, Non-Hispanic	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White, Non-Hispanic	All Other Students	Total
Full-Time Undergraduate								
1970	- -	25,896	1,170	4,728	9,704	- -	397,997	439,495
1972	- -	42,314	1,278	5,915	17,177	- -	406,515	473,199
1974	- -	50,392	1,294	6,778	21,360	- -	425,970	505,794
1976	8,719	57,126	2,742	9,396	28,198	431,966	- -	538,147
1978	8,756	62,076	2,682	11,041	30,988	419,330	- -	534,873
1980	11,258	67,604	2,651	12,278	35,714	430,208	- -	560,218
1982								
Part-Time Undergraduate								
1970	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
1972	- -	25,932	821	1,837	8,735	- -	158,092	195,417
1974	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
1976	1,399	31,165	1,369	3,655	11,344	178,899	- -	228,131
1978	1,545	27,248	1,220	3,803	10,791	183,452	- -	228,059
1980	1,975	29,090	1,454	4,813	13,262	189,850	- -	240,444
1982								
Full-Time Graduate								
1970	- -	2,031*	149*	988*	673*	- -	31,341*	55,182*
1972	- -	2,280	120	1,313	650	- -	38,407	42,770
1974	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
1976	5,030	2,312	149	1,077	1,153	35,847	- -	45,568
1978	5,530	2,369	146	1,102	1,183	36,152	- -	46,482
1980	6,703	2,670	140	1,250	1,470	34,950	- -	47,133
1982								
Part-Time Graduate								
1970	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
1972	- -	4,856	260	1,943	1,547	- -	104,331	112,937
1974	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
1976	2,905	6,247	291	2,116	2,788	91,340	- -	105,687
1978	2,558	5,759	347	2,500	2,625	94,251	- -	98,040
1980	2,332	5,590	253	2,819	3,696	81,560	- -	96,250
1982								
Full-Time First-Professional								
1970	- -	- -*	- -*	- -*	- -*	- -	- -*	- -*
1972	- -	301	25	160	160	- -	14,705	15,651
1974	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
1976	156	791	22	285	314	16,815	- -	18,373
1978	156	716	36	294	403	19,164	- -	20,769
1980	1,343	674	33	435	484	18,666	- -	20,425
1982								
Part-Time First-Professional								
1970	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
1972	- -	30	- -	11	19	- -	1,669	1,779
1974	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
1976	3	74	1	21	45	1,633	- -	1,777
1978	2	75	1	12	18	1,783	- -	1,911
1980	- -	107	1	19	48	2,031	- -	2,206
1982								

*First-Professional included in Graduate totals.

Source: NYSED: Postsecondary Research, Information Systems & Institutional Aid. (GLR6/83).

Participation and Degree Completion (TABLE 2)

*Less than half of the 9th grade Blacks and Hispanics reach the 12th grade. Over 80% of the 9th grade Whites and nearly all of the Asians reach the 12th grade. The proportion of 9th graders reaching 12th grade declined throughout the 1970's for all race/ethnic groups, with a slight upturn for most in 1981.

*In the latter half of the 1970's, approximately 17%-22% of 9th grade Blacks and Hispanics went on to obtain an undergraduate degree, while approximately 40% of the 9th grade Whites did so.

*Of those students reaching 12th grade, approximately two-thirds of the Whites, Blacks and Hispanics go on to college. Over 85% of the Asians and American Natives go on to college.

*Of those entering college in recent years, over 90% of Whites appear to eventually earn an undergraduate degree. Between 55% and 65% of the Blacks and Hispanics earn an undergraduate degree.

*Of those Whites obtaining bachelors degrees, just under half appear to go on to obtain a graduate degree. About two-thirds of the Asians and nearly 40% of the Blacks and Hispanics do the same.

*College entry rates of 12th graders fluctuated some but showed no significant trends during the 1970's for any of the race/ethnic groups. However, when the college entry rates are adjusted for migration of the respective race/ethnic groups into and out of the State, it appears that college participation of minorities has declined while that of whites has increased.

*For all race/ethnic groups, plans to attend college increase substantially with increases in high school grades and family income. In 1981, there was a decline in the participation plans of the middle income groups. Individuals with similar background characteristics tend to have similar college plans, irrespective of racial/ethnic background.

Attendance Choices

*Between 1978 and 1980, all groups except Whites displayed an increased tendency to enroll as full-time, first-time students in two-year colleges. The proportion of Whites choosing SUNY community colleges was up and the proportion choosing Proprietary institutions was down. For the minority groups, the increase at two-year colleges occurred primarily in the Proprietary sector.

*In 1980, the proportion of full-time, first-time students in four-year institutions was 79.6%, 56.3%, 56.2%, 55.6% and 52.9% for Asians, Hispanics, Blacks, Whites and American Natives respectively. Corresponding figures for two-year institutions were 18.1%, 36.1% 36.0%, 40.6% and 44.1%.

NEW YORK STATE
Selected Transition/Completion Ratios
by Race/Ethnicity*

Year(K)	Asian	White	Black	Hispanic	American Native
High School Retention					
12th Grade as a Share of 9th Grade Three Years Earlier					
1972		85.0	59.5	52.6	
1973	114.0%	83.4	55.9	48.8	83.4
1974	112.7	82.6	57.6	46.9	97.6
1975	101.2	83.0	55.7	47.4	72.9
1976	108.3	83.1	57.2	51.2	67.8
1977	109.2	82.6	55.6	46.7	71.3
1978	111.9	82.2	56.0	46.7	72.4
1979	115.9	81.7	53.1	42.3	70.5
1980	101.5	81.2	49.1	40.0	57.0
1981	107.4	81.3	46.6	40.7	59.7
1982					
College Entry					
New College Students As a Share of 12th Grade a Year Earlier					
1974		59	65	52	
1976		55	70	70	
1978	100	58	58	58	196
1980	86	64	63	68	160
1982					
New College Students As a Share of 9th Grade Four Years Earlier					
1974		49	36	25	
1976		45	39	33	
1978	109	48	32	27	140
1980	100	52	33	29	113
1982					
College Retention					
Estimated Proportion of New College Students Persisting to an Undergraduate Degree					
1978		91	63	58	
1980		94	63	55	
1982					
Bachelors Degree Share of Undergraduate Degrees					
1978	-	63.7	60.6	56.1	
1980	81.7	63.4	57.5	58.8	58.6
1982					
Graduate Degree Attainment					
Graduate Degrees As a Share of Bachelor Degrees Two Years Earlier					
1978	65.0	47.7	42.3	37.2	53.0
1980	68.6	49.0	34.4	47.7	31.9
1982					
Doctoral & First-Professional Degree Shares of Graduate Degrees					
1976		21.3	14.0	11.8	
1978	17.1	24.7	12.9	17.1	14.2
1980	21.2	24.4	14.6	15.3	14.9
1982					

*In- and out-migration of enrollments and the population influence all the ratios shown in this table. For example, high school retention levels of Asians that are greater than 100% are due to the recent high levels of immigration of Asians. Also influencing the figures are unknown numbers of older students entering college for the first time. This is believed to be an important factor in the unusually high college entry rates for Native Americans.

Source: NYSED: Postsecondary Research, Information Systems & Institutional Aid. (GLR7/83).

Proportions of each group entering proprietary institutions were 2.3%, 7.6%, 7.8%, 3.8% and 3.0%. Thus, Asians were more apt than other groups to enter four-year institutions; American Natives and Whites were more apt than others to enter two-year institutions: and Blacks and Hispanics were more apt than others to enter Proprietary institutions.

*Of full-time first-time students entering college in New York State in 1980, Whites and American Natives were more apt to enter the State University (52.5% and 46.8%, respectively, compared to 21.1% of Asians, 20.5% of Blacks, and 10.3% of Hispanics choosing SUNY). The City University was the choice for most Hispanics and Blacks (56.7% and 46.5%, compared with 37.7% of Asians, 28.4% of American Natives, and 8.8% of Whites choosing CUNY). Representation of all race ethnic groups was relatively even in the Independent sector (Asian 38.8%, Whites 34.9%, Hispanics 25.5%, Blacks 25.2%, Native Americans 21.9%). The remaining small percentages of students attended proprietary institutions.

*For the local institutions (80% or more of enrollment from home region) in each Regents regions, race/ethnicity enrollment shares correspond closely with the race/ethnicity population shares of the regions. This suggests that acceptable local options generally are available to the State's residents regardless of race/ethnic background.

Program Interests

*In general, program interests are similar across all race/ethnic groups. However, Asians received higher proportions of engineering and hard science degrees than did other groups (e.g., 16% of Baccalaureates received by Asians, compared to 4% to 7% for other groups). Blacks display a greater preference than other groups for interdisciplinary programs, and Hispanics for foregin language programs. At the undergraduate level, between 17% and 22% of the bachelor degrees were in business for all race ethnic groups. Business also showed the largest increases in the number of degrees awarded. Blacks and Hispanics received particularly low shares of the engineering degree awards (4% and 3% compared to population shares of 12% and 6%).

*At the Masters level, more degrees were awarded in education than in any other field in 1980, with business a close second. Of the Masters degrees awarded, Blacks and Hispanics received much higher proportions in education (38% for both) than did the other race/ethnic groups (28%, 19% and 11% for Whites, American Natives and Asians, respectively). Blacks and Hispanics were also the only groups more likely to receive a Masters degree in education in 1980 than they were in 1976.

*For both doctoral and first professional degrees, the proportion of minorities among degree recipients was very small. Minorities received 12% of the doctoral degrees and 7% of the first professional degrees in 1980, with the others awarded to Whites. Blacks received 5.0%; Asians, 4.9%; Hispanics, 2.1%; and American Natives, 0.2%. For the first professional degrees, Blacks received 3.2%; Hispanics, 2.2%; Asians, 1.4%; and American Natives, 0.1%.

*The vast majority of first professional degrees were awarded in law and medicine. Medicine was clearly at the top of the list for Asians (51% of first-professional degrees awarded to Asians, compared to 33% for Hispanics, 30% for Blacks, 27% for Whites, and 20% for American Natives). Law was clearly at the top of the list for all other groups. Law accounted for 80% of first-professional degrees for American Natives, 63% for Blacks, 55% for Hispanics, 55% for Whites but only 29% for Asians. Dentistry was also popular among Asians with 12.6% of first-professional degrees. Whites received a more diverse set of degrees than did the other groups. Blacks appear to have shifted their attention toward law and away from medicine in recent years. The percentage of Blacks receiving first-professional degrees in medicine dropped from 39% to 30% between 1976 and 1980, while the percentage receiving degrees in law increased from 50% to 63%.

Special Notes About the Data

The Data on racial/ethnic enrollments and degrees conferred used in this report are taken from responses to Federal questionnaires (Fall Enrollment and Compliance Report--ED 2300-2.3A) administered in New York State by the State Education Department. The five racial/ethnic categories are those used in these Federal surveys. The Office of Civil Rights has never included an "Unknown" Cateogry, insisting that institutions assign every student to a proper category and providing no official guidance in cases where this is not possible. Generally, the institutions allocate "unknowns" to the other categories in their respective proportions. Because the data for most institutions are based on incomplete and voluntary responses by students, this process is subject to some unknown error.

Another observation about these data is important: migration into and out of the State "contaminates" all of the data for New York State. In-migration of Asians is particularly noticeable in elementary/secondary enrollment in successive years. Since explicit estimates of migration patterns are not available, it is not possible to standardize the figures, either over time or across racial/ethnic categories, to permit valid numerical comparisons.